

App. No.:10/063870
Filed:May 21, 2002

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REMARKS

It is most respectfully submitted that the Examiner has made two errors in expressing his final rejection and that that rejection should be withdrawn for that reason.

First the Examiner states that Okumura stops "the application of ultrasonic vibration and pressure in response to the detection of completion of the state of bonding." This is not correct. Although the Examiner has referred to column 3, lines 11-50 as the alleged support for this position, neither that section or any other part of Okumura's disclosure indicates when the application of ultrasonic vibration and pressure is stopped.

The paragraphs that the Examiner has called attention to describe how the electric power is maintained constant during the operation, not when the welding operation is stopped. This is clear from the following three paragraphs that conclude with the statement "the electric power to be supplied to the joint is kept constant." (Column 4 lines 13 and 14)

If the Examiner still maintains his position, he is most respectfully requested to point out where Okumura refers to the termination of ultrasonic vibration and pressure, the feature being claimed by applicant.

It is also respectfully submitted that the Examiner has erred when alleging that applicant has not claimed the "controlling of the welding time so that the welding operation is only continued as long as necessary to establish a good bond". Claim 1, one of the two independent claims clearly states "detecting the degree of bonding between the metallic wire and the device" and also "stopping the application of ultrasonic vibration and pressure in response to the detection of completion of the state of bonding". This constitutes the stopping of the welding operation.

In a like manner, independent claim 12 states "a bonding detector that detects the degree of bonding of the metallic wire to the device" and concludes by claiming that this "advise said control section when to terminate welding".

Thus it is believed most respectfully that the Examiner should favorably reconsider his positions.

Respectfully submitted:


Ernest A. Beutler
Reg. No. 19901

Phone (949) 717- 4821
Pacific Time